

RISE-MS RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS SOLICITATION FOR MS APPLICANTS:

PROGRAM GOALS

RISE to the Postdoctorate Masters Option (RISE-MS) is supported by an NIH grant. The federal agency specifies the following goals (NIH PAR-10-004):

- *"The goal of the RISE Program is to increase the number of students from UR groups in biomedical and behavioral research who successfully complete the Ph.D. degree in these fields."*
- *"For the purpose of the RISE Program UR groups include those reported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as well as the National Academies to be nationally underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral sciences (i.e., African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, and Natives of US Pacific Islands, and people with disabilities)."*

PROGRAM BENEFITS.

RISE4-MS is structured to provide the skills, resources, and knowledge for students that are necessary to earn an MS at NMSU and transition to a PhD graduate program at another research intensive institution. The program offers professional development activities and focused research training enhancements.

Students are eligible for RA appointments for up to 12 months per grant year for 20 hrs/week of effort (renewable yearly pending student progress). Students are eligible for tuition remission, health insurance reimbursement, supplies, travel to conferences, and paid research internships at partner institutions. All appointments and benefits are contingent on availability of eternal funds.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Master's students who believe their participation will fulfill the goals for RISE specified by NIH (above) and meet the following requirements are encouraged to apply:

- *Full-time matriculation in a MS degree program at NMSU*
- *Research interests within the scope of the NIH mission (<http://www.nih.gov/about/mission.htm>)*
- *Students who intend to apply for doctoral programs at other institutions.*
- *Students who will complete either a thesis or a non-thesis MS degree in 2 years or less.*
- *Students who can conduct academic year research under the guidance of an NMSU faculty mentor and participate in paid summer research at a RISE partner institution.*
- *Good academic standing. New NMSU grad students should have an undergrad BA/BS in a STEM discipline and a minimum 3.3 undergraduate science GPA; students who have completed NMSU graduate work should have a 3.4 graduate GPA.*
- *RISE-MS students are not eligible for RISE-PhD support if they elect to continue doctoral research at NMSU upon completion of the MS degree.*
- *Preferred applicants: non-NMSU BA/BS degrees; current or former Pell grant recipients; students without prior undergraduate research experience; new/1st semester students*

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Part 1. Online Preliminary Application.

- Interested students should submit preliminary information at this URL: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/rise4year1prelimapp>
- Upon completion of the survey, send an email to the RISE Program Office (rise@nmsu.edu) with the subject line: **"RISE4Year1 New MS Applicant: YourName"**. A Program Director will contact you and provide you with the information for Part 2 of the application.

Part 2. Student Research and Curriculum Plan.

Successful degree completion is dependent on the training environment provided by the faculty research advisor. RISE-MS faculty are expected to provide the mentorship that will enable the continued professional success of the MS student: *entry to a PhD program at another research-intensive institution*

Successful applicants should meet RISE eligibility requirements, be ready to fulfill the program's expectations, and identify an NMSU faculty member who meets the requirements set forth by the RISE program and is willing to provide a mentored research experience during the academic year.

The Program Directors are available to assist students with identifying NMSU faculty with related research interests and to answer questions about the application process (Lusetti, slusetti@nmsu.edu; Serrano, serrano@nmsu.edu; Unguez, gunguez@nmsu.edu).

As per agency stipulation (NIH PAR-10-004): "To receive salary support from the RISE program, students must be U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals or permanent residents and must be enrolled full time in academic degree programs in biomedical or behavioral science fields at the applicant institution. (A non-citizen national is a person who, although not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the U.S.)" NIH prohibits appointment of students concurrently supported by other federal funds. Individuals on temporary visas, those seeking asylum, or refugees are not eligible for support from the RISE program

RISE-MS MENTOR ELIGIBILITY:

Any member of the NMSU Graduate (MS) Faculty (<http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/gradfaciist.php#Alpha>) who holds a tenured or tenure-track position at NMSU and meets these requirements may serve as a RISE MS mentor during the academic year:

- Research expertise and experience relevant to biomedical and biobehavioral research and the NIH mission (<http://www.nih.gov/about/mission.htm>).
- Track record of mentoring underrepresented minority students to graduate degrees appropriate for rank
- Resources to support the student's MS project (collaborators, equipment, facilities, funding, etc)

Faculty may nominate 1 student per solicitation round and may mentor a maximum of 2 RISE supported students at a time.